

## Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07  
EUR-12 NEA-10 AGR-05 OIC-02 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05  
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05  
SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00  
OMB-01 IGA-02 /142 W

-----011652Z 024802 /41

P 011600Z JUN 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7845

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USMTN

ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJ: GROUP AGRICULTURE JUNE 20 MEETING

REF: (A) MTN GENEVA 2536, (B) MEN/AG/6

1. GROUP AGRICULTURE AGREED AT ITS LAST MEETING ON MARCH 24 TO MEET AGAIN BEFORE THE SUMMER RECESS. THE MEETING WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN THE WEEK BEGINNING JUNE 20. THE TWO AGENDA ITEMS TO BE TAKEN UP AT THAT MEETING ARE: (A) THE APPLICABILITY OF THE STANDARD CODE TO AGRICULTURE -- A CONTINUATION OF THE DEBATE OF THE LAST MEETING; AND (B) THE AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL FOR A GROUP AGRICULTURE WORK PROGRAM  
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MADE IN DECEMBER 1976 (MTN/AG/W/14).

2. THE AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL CALLS FOR A DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS BY GROUP AGRICULTURE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. IT STATES THAT THIS WORK SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF, AND BE COORDINATED WITH, THAT OF OTHER MTN

GROUPS WORKING ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES. THE MAJOR AGRICULTURAL SUBGROUPS SHOULD TRANSLATE THESE GENERAL PRINCIPLES INTO FORMS SUITABLE FOR THE PARTICULAR COMMODITIES UNDER EXAMINATION.

3. THE AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL ADDRESSES ITSELF IN PARTICULAR TO: (A) THE SCOPE OF TARIFF REDUCTIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS; (B) THE SCOPE AND METHODS FOR NEGOTIATING NTMS IN AFRICULTURE; (C) PRICE SUPPORT POLICIES AND MEHTODS OF CONTAINING THEIR HARMFUL EFFECTS ON TRADE; (D) EXPORT AIDS AND THEIR IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL TRADE.

4. THE AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL STRESSES THE EQUIVALENCE RATHER THAN THE IDENTITY OF GATT TREATMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS.

5. CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE APPLICABILITY OF THE STANDARD CODE TO AGRICULTURE IS DESIRABLE. THE AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL, HOWEVER, INVOLVES SENSITIVE AGRI-CULTURAL POLICY PROBLEMS WHICH IF NOT ADDRESSED IN A POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE WAY BY THE US AND OTHER MAJOR NEGOTIATING PARTNERS MAY ENHANCE THE MALAISE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE MTN. THE AUSTRALIANS ARE AWARE THE US WILL BE UNABLE TO RESPOND SUBSTANTIVELY TO THIS PAPER AS EARLY AS JUNE 20 AND HAVE TOLD US THEY WILL NOT REPEAT NOT, SEEK TO EMBARRASS US BY PUSHING FOR RESPONSES THEY KNOW WE CANNOT GIVE; IT SEEMS HOWEVER, AUSTRALIANS ARE NOT WILLING TO REMOVE THIS ITEM FROM THE AGENDA.  
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PATTERSON, THE CHAIRMAN OF GROUP AGRICULTURE, EXPRESSED EVEN THE VIEW THAT GIVEN THE EXPECTATIONS RAISED BY THE SUMMIT, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO POSTPONE THE PLANNED MEETING OF GROUP AGRICULTURE RATHER THAN HAVE ANOTHER UNPRODUCTIVE SESSION.

6. MTN DEL BELIEVES THAT WIDESPREAD KNOWLEDGE OF THE ENVISAGED HIGH-LEVEL BILATERALS OF THE EC, JAPAN, AND OTHER MAJOR NEGOTIATING PARTNERS WILL CARRY SUFFICIENT MOMENTUM TO OFFSET THE LACK OF POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL. MOREOVER, A CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE APPLICABILITY OF THE STANDARD CODE TO AGRICULTURE WILL PREVENT THE MEETING OF GROUP AGRICULTURE FROM APPEARING TO BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

7. MTN DEL THEREFORE INTENDS TO RECOMMEND TO PATTERSON TO GO AHEAD WITH THE MEETING OF GROUP AGRICULTURE WHICH PROBABLE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE WEEK BEGINNING JUNE 20.

8. UNLESS WE ARE INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY, WE WILL  
INFORM PATTERSON IN THIS SENSE AT THE LATEST BY COB  
JUNE 3. THE GATT AIRGRAM CALLING FOR THE MEETING HAS  
TO BE ISSUED AT THE LATEST IN THE WEEK BEGINNING JUNE 6.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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